

SCENES OF HORROR AT THE BURNING HOTEL.

(Continued from First Page.)

ford, acting under the instructions of District-Attorney Jerome, went to the hotel at noon to-day and served Proprietor Reid with a subpoena to appear before the Grand Jury on Monday.

Mr. Reid would say nothing to the reporters after he received the subpoena. He also refused to answer certain questions put to him by Mr. Sanford.

Fire Marshal Friel made an extended investigation into the fire and its origin. He will report to Commissioner Sturgis this afternoon.

"The fire in the Park Avenue," declared Chief Croker, "was separate and distinct from that of the armory, and the hotel did not catch fire from the armory. The fire in the hotel started in the basement and spread through the elevator shaft to the upper floors."

Hotel People Criticized.
The police charge that the great loss of life was due to the neglect of the hotel people to arouse the guests to a proper sense of their danger.

Proprietor Reid answers that the fact that the victims were fully dressed indicates that their fate was the result of their foolishness in remaining in the hotel after they had warning of danger.

Some of the injured admit that after being aroused they looked at the armory fire awhile and then went back to bed again.

Fire Chief Croker and Hotel Proprietor Reid agree that the hotel did not take fire from the armory, though this is controverted.

Mr. Reid insists his hotel was fired by an incendiary, as it started at the bottom of an elevator shaft in the basement.

Two Fires in the Hotel.
As a matter of fact there were two fires in the hotel—one from below of suspicious origin, and another on the sixth floor, where most of the victims were found, that had ignited from the shower of sparks driven by the wind from the burning armory.

Fire in the armory started at 1:25 o'clock in the third floor on the Thirty-third street side, in the apartment occupied by the First Signal Corps. The building, which extends from Thirty-third street north to Thirty-fourth street, fronting on Park avenue, was also the headquarters for the Fifth Brigade, the Seventy-first Regiment and the Second Battery.

Woman Discovered Blame.
A woman was first to discover the blaze. She had presence of mind to run to headquarters of Battalion Chief Ross, in Thirty-third street, near Lexington avenue. She pounded on the door until she aroused the firemen.

"For God's sake, hurry," she shouted; "the armory is all ablaze!"

Ross rushed and at once turned in a triple alarm. When the department responded flames were bursting from the third-story windows and forcing their way through the roof.

Meanwhile workmen in the rapid transit excavation on Park avenue saw the flames and thundered on the doors of the armory until they aroused Armorer Andrew Patterson, who slept in the building with his wife and two children. Patterson had barely time to get his family from the place alive.

Hampered by Slushy Streets.
The awful condition of the streets retarded the department in reaching the fire, and the position of the armory, hemmed in by the street railway tunnel and the rapid transit excavation, delayed the men in getting into action.

A rumor that dynamite was stored in one of the shanties of the rapid transit contractor alongside the burning building added to the discomfort of the fire-fighters.

This was increased when the blank and ball cartridges in the Fifth Brigade Headquarters began popping as the flames reached the magazine.

Powder in Armory Explodes.
Down in the basement of the building was stored a thousand pounds of powder. When the firemen reached the building this powder exploded with a report that shook the massive stone walls of the building. The Thirty-third street wall crumbled and fell in.

At first it was thought that the hotel was in no danger, though Proprietor Reid had a force of men on the roof sweeping off the shower of sparks and brands. The windows of the hotel were filled with guests, who viewed the fire from a point of vantage.

250 Families Driven Out.
Meanwhile the fire had spread from the armory to the apartment houses on Thirty-fourth and Thirty-third streets, immediately adjoining the armory.

Hose was carried up to stay the progress of the fiery rain carried by the wind, and meanwhile the police drove the occupants into the street.

Two hundred and fifty families were thus driven out in their night attire onto the icy walks. Many were sheltered in the Albemarle Stables, at Thirty-third street and Lexington avenue. Others were driven in cabs to nearby hotels.

The sympathy of the crowd was turned from those who had been made homeless on the bitterest night of the winter to the occupants of the Park Avenue Hotel, who suddenly found themselves trapped by fire.

Panic in the Hotel.
As already told, the origin of the fire there is ascribed to two causes. The guests, however, knew nothing of their danger until the flames were upon them. Turning from the windows they found smoke pouring into their rooms. Immediate panic ensued.

Soon the Park avenue front and the Thirty-third street side were filled with frightened guests clambering out on the ledges and threatening to jump to the street.

Scenes at the Windows.
Clinton Falls, an adjutant of the Seventh Regiment, who has lived at the Park Avenue Hotel for some time, appeared at a window on the sixth floor. Mr. and Mrs. Berwick Bradley, a bridal couple from South Carolina, who were to leave today on the transport McEllan for Manila, appeared at a fifth floor window at the Thirty-third street corner.

Mrs. Charlotte Bennett and her husband, Harold, of Alabama, stood on a ledge on the fifth floor, just over the portico over the main entrance to the hotel.

Mrs. Bennett was terror-stricken and screamed for some one to rescue her. Her husband grasped her, and from the crowd in the streets were shouted warnings not to jump.

Woman Leaps from Fifth Story.
When it was seen that she was determined to jump, the firemen gathered in a circle and stretched out their arms. Mrs. Bennett wrenched herself free from her husband, and, with a scream, flung herself into the arms of the waiting firemen five stories below.

Flames were licking out of the window behind her as she jumped. The interior of her room was all aflame.

Mrs. Bennett struck in the arms of the firemen. Her weight caused them to sag and the woman struck the pavement. She was terribly burned about the body.

She was carried into the hotel by Fireman O'Connor, where hospital surgeons attended her. Later she was taken to Bellevue Hospital, where she died. When Mrs. Bennett jumped her husband disappeared back into his rooms. He was not seen afterward.

On an Icy Ledge.
Mr. and Mrs. Bradley appeared at a window on the fifth floor on the Park avenue side of the building, near Thirty-third street. Mrs. Bradley appeared to be cool, her husband hysterical.

Mrs. Bradley stepped out of her window onto an eighteen-inch ledge. This ledge was covered with ice and snow. On this narrow coping, with their bodies pressed close against the walls of the building, Mr. and Mrs. Bradley crept, hand in hand, for over sixty feet to a point directly above the portico in the middle of the hotel, upon which a dozen firemen stood and from which they had raised ladders to the fifth floor.

Then the two climbed down on the ladders were helped onto the portico, and from there down to the street by the aid of two scor firemen.

Stood Like a Stole.
During all this time, twenty minutes having elapsed, Adjutant Falls, tall and white haired, stood on the ledge of the window of his room, on the sixth floor. He was clad in white pajamas. Though thick smoke was pouring out of the window all about him, he waited stoically until it was his turn to be taken down by the firemen. The crowd shouted words of encouragement to him.

Fireman O'Brien was ordered up from the top of the portico to Falls's window. The fireman went to the top of the ladder, reaching to the fifth floor ledge only. From this he threw up the scaling ladder to the ledge on which Falls stood. Five minutes it took to fasten the ladder. The ledge was icy and the ladder would not stick. Falls helped all the time. Finally he jammed the ladder down and it caught on the ledge. Falls then descended to the portico.

Policeman Hodgins of the East Twenty-second street station, found a Mrs. Baugh sitting on the ledge of a window on the sixth floor on the Thirty-third street side. The woman was aged and partially paralyzed. She was clad only in her night clothing. With her was her nurse, Agnes Schanz.

Hodgins went through their rooms, pulled the two in from their perilous position and carried Mrs. Baugh to the street down the stairway, showing the nurse the way.

He returned to the fourth floor and there found Mr. and Mrs. Weld. Both were partially overcome by the smoke. He carried them downstairs. Half way down he met Father Connolly, from Binghamton, who had lost his way. He called to the priest.

Saved by a Priest.
In the mean time Miss Schanz had fainted. Father Connolly turned about, picked up the unconscious form of the lady, and he and the policeman found their way downstairs through the blinding smoke to the rotunda and thence into the street.

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From this ladder they carried down eleven persons, men and women, whose names they did not take, nor did the police secure them. Three persons, names unknown, were rescued from the Thirty-third street end of the building.

Capt. Delaney, of the East Thirty-fifth street station, found Mrs. Dyea, an aged woman, unconscious from smoke on the second floor. He picked her up in his arms and carried her to the street.

Rescued Several Priests.
Fire Chaplain Smith found Bishop Ludden of Syracuse, in his room on the seventh floor. He helped him to the street.

Bishop Ludden told the firemen that there were, on the fourth floor, a number of other priests, including Mr. Kenney, also of Syracuse.

The Fire Chaplain returned to the building. He fought his way through the smoke and up the stairs to the fourth floor.

He gathered the priests from two adjoining rooms and had them wrap wet towels about their heads and guided them down the stairs.

Hose Was Too Short.
When the fire reached the hotel, Chief Croker ordered Capt. Kenyon to take a line of hose into the building. Kenyon had not hose enough to reach the upper floors and when he ordered his men to use the hotel hose they came back and reported they could not find a line of hose on the third, fourth or fifth floor.

Capt. Kenyon will report this violation of the ordinance to the Fire Marshal. The firemen were ordered to let the fire take its course and get the guests out in safety.

Col. Thurston, Deputy Police Commissioner, ordered the police into the building to assist them. A number of citizens who were in the hotel rotunda assisted in the work of rescue.

Many Ambulances Called.
Meanwhile the hotel fire had spread with such rapidity that Chief Croker ordered all his apparatus to direct their efforts to saving the building. Seven trucks were ordered to the Thirty-third street side of the building and the place was deluged with water.

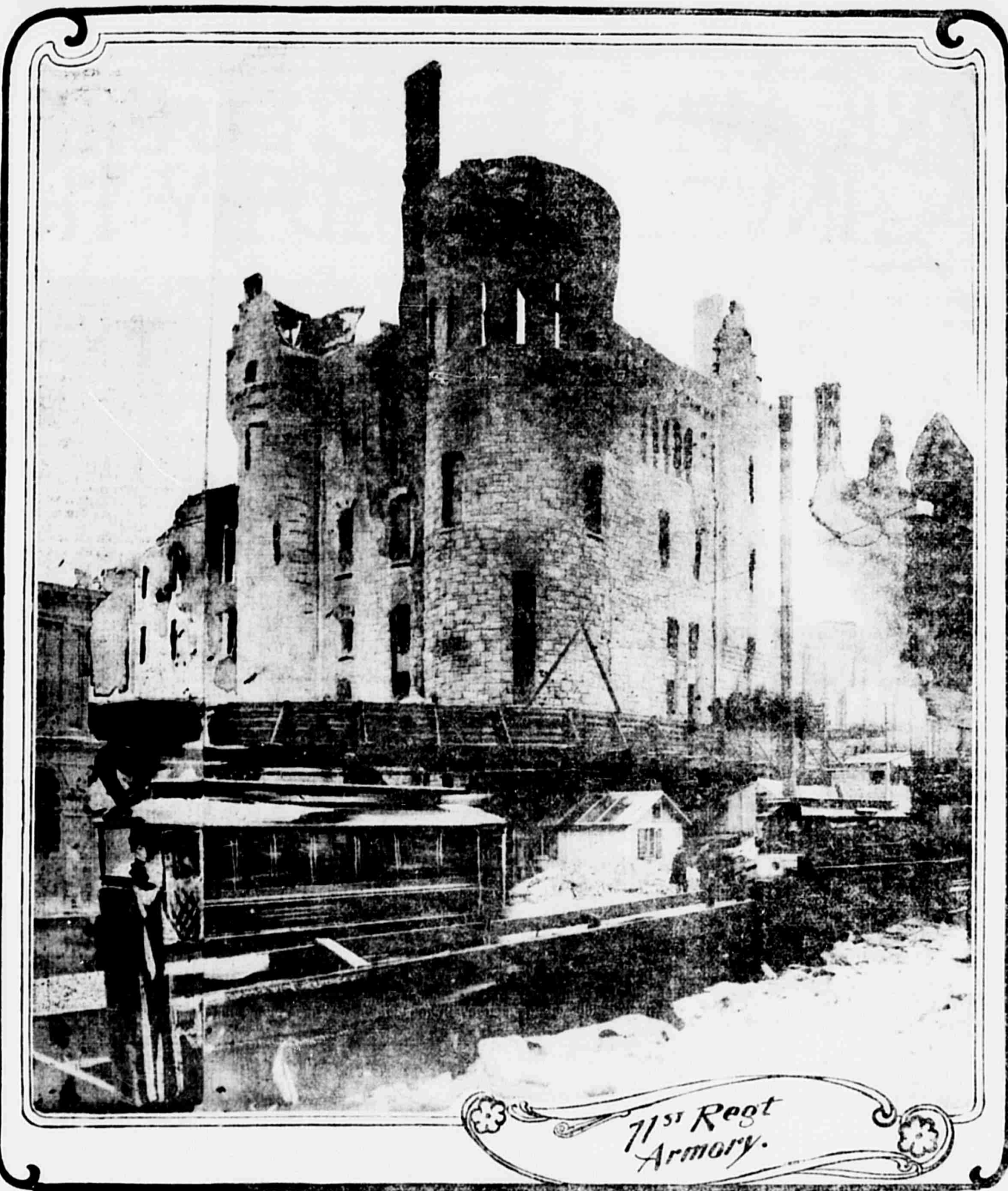
Ambulances were summoned from Bellevue and New York Hospitals. A temporary hospital was rigged up in the basement of the hotel on the Thirty-third street side, which the flames did not reach.

Those who had been overcome or suffered burns were treated here before being sent to the hospitals. Many were taken across the street to the private sanitarium of Dr. Bull and others to the home of Mrs. Wray, of No. 36 East Thirty-third street, who threw open her doors to those who were injured or lacked shelter.

The fire in the hotel was not under control until 5:30 o'clock. Hardly had the guests returned to their rooms to estimate their damages when the flames broke out afresh on the sixth floor, and there was a repetition of the panic of a few hours previous.

An investigation of the hotel after the fire showed that the flames had eaten their way up the elevator shaft from the basement and swept through the side corridors to the fourth and fifth floors.

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FIRE RUINS FROM PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN AT 10 A. M. TO-DAY.

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The woodwork from the fourth to the seventh floor throughout the

north end of the building was scorched and burned and the outer sides of the doors were charred.

The draughts that swept the flames through the building made the corridors like blast furnaces.

Mr. Reid said his loss could not be estimated to-day, but he knew it was fully covered by insurance.

Armory Fire a Mystery.
The origin of the fire in the armory has not been accurately determined. There was no battalion drill there last evening, but during the afternoon the Police Department band rehearsed in the building.

It is thought likely that a burning cigar or cigarette dropped carelessly may have caused the blaze that smoldered for hours before the fire was discovered.

Estimating the Damage.
Chief Croker said late to-day that the probable damage to the hotel would be in the neighborhood of \$150,000. The woodwork of the north section of the building would have to be renewed and the damage throughout the building by smoke and water to carpet, rugs and draperies was extensive.

The Seventy-first Regiment armory was built at a cost of \$900,000. The building is a total loss.

In addition to this are the losses of personal property by patrons of the hotel and residents of the apartments attacked by the flames.

Elevator Shaft a Mine.
A hurried investigation showed that the fire in the basement was making its way up the elevator shaft, and acted as a great flue, and the flames leaped up to the fifth floor, where it broke out in the main portion of the hotel.

"All this time my men were having the utmost difficulty in making a connection. They were greatly handicapped by the fact that they had to drag the line over the excavations in front of the hotel. The engines, of course, were clustered about the armory, and the firemen were unable to get into the hotel until they had made a safe passage for their hose."

Panic Was Terrible.
"The panic was terrible and terrifying. Not a person in the hotel was aware that he was in a trap for some minutes before the fire had started in the basement."

"Finally the men succeeded in dragging the hose over the excavation and into the hotel."

"In the mean time I and several of my men had rushed into the hotel and began looking for fire apparatus. We could find a single piece of hose or a standpipe."

REID ACCUSED OF NEGLIGENCE.
Charging negligence against Frederick R. Reid, the manager of the Park Avenue Hotel, Fire Battalion Chief Ross and Capt. Keulon, of Engine Company No. 7, declared that had the ordinary legal precautions been observed, the catastrophe might have been averted.

Their statements caused Fire Commissioner Sturgis, who arrived upon the scene early this morning, to order an immediate investigation.

Should the charges be well-founded, Mr. Sturgis declared that he would at once proceed against the hotel people. Ross and Keulon declare that the length of hose which the law declares shall be placed upon every hotel floor was lacking in the Park Avenue. Furthermore, they add, the fire-extinguishers were not found on every floor.

Discovers New Blaze.
During the height of the armory blaze Chief Croker saw flames issuing from the fifth floor of the hotel. He at once directed Capt. Keulon to take his com-

pany to fight the new fire which did not seem to be threatening.

Keulon found when he reached the fifth floor that his hose was too short.

In the dense smoke, so thick he could not see an arm's length in front of him, Keulon searched for the hotel hose, thinking to add it to his own and thus reach the blaze.

Although he searched the entire corridor he could not find a hose, and by this time the fire gained great headway, burning upward.

Strange Absence of Hose.
Afterward, when they made a search, Ross and Keulon declare they were unable to find either extinguishers or hose on any but the first floor.

Mr. Sturgis was much impressed by the statements, and requested police assistance in the investigation he at once instituted.

The case will be placed before the District-Attorney for immediate action, should truth be found in the firemen's allegations.

PROPRIETOR CALLS IT INCENDIARY.
Frederick R. Reid, the proprietor of the burned Park Avenue Hotel, believes an incendiary set fire to his hostelry while the Seventy-first Regiment armory was burning. He said:

"I always had men on duty at night on every floor watching for fire, and they were on post last night as usual."

"I was on the seventh floor myself, when I smelled smoke, and realized that it came from fire in the hotel and not from the armory fire."

"I ran down to the second floor, and then I saw that the fire was in the basement at the foot of an airshaft."

"I ran to the basement, where I assembled several hotel employees and we fought the flames with fire extinguishers. But we could not conquer them."

"I do not believe our fire had anything to do with the armory fire."

"I believe that some person entered the hotel and deliberately set the building on fire."

"There was nothing inflammable and nothing to start a fire that I know of where the blaze started, and I am forced to believe that the hotel fire was of incendiary origin."

The more facts that came to light, Mr. Reid added, the more convinced was he that the fire was of incendiary origin.

He was alone in this belief, apparently, for neither the firemen nor the hotel guests seemed to share the proprietor's theory.

In fact, it was hinted that by laying the blame on an unknown person Mr. Reid would be able to cover over what many more were unhesitating in declaring to be neglect of the proper precautions.

HOTEL PEOPLE MUST EXPLAIN.
Inspector Thompson was asked why the fatalities were so many in view of

the fact that the fire did not reach the hotel until an hour after it had started in the armory.

"I don't know. Let the hotel people explain that," he replied. "It was two minutes of three when we discovered fire in the cupola of the hotel, and that was an hour and a half. It was discovered in the armory."

"I notified the hotel people at once to get the guests out immediately. Mr. Reid, one of the proprietors of the hotel, said that as soon as he saw the fire across the street he had the guests notified. They found it a hard time to get out. I cannot explain why so many lost their lives."

MRS. FOSTER, "TOMBS ANGEL," PERISHED.
Mrs. Louise Foster, the "Tombs Angel," lost her life in the Park Avenue Hotel.

She occupied room No. 312 on the sixth floor, and was probably suffocated while sleeping. The identification was made by her daughter, Mrs. Powers, who was with her.

The daughters went to the hotel early to-day and visited their mother's room. They found some of her clothing and were certain that she had been in the room last night.

The daughters then visited the room in which the mother had died, where they found some of her clothing and were certain that she had been in the room last night.

Then they returned and made another inspection of the dead. This time their attention was directed to a plain gold ring on the finger of one of the bodies, which was charred beyond identification.

The ring bore an inscription on the inside and by this means the identification was made certain.

The ring was presented to her by her husband on her wedding day. Inside it is the following inscription:

My dear M. M. Dear, Feb. 28, 1896. From H. H. Husband.

Mrs. Foster's body was removed from the hotel to the home of her daughter, Mrs. Walter C. Powers, No. 12 East Twelfth street.

Mrs. Foster has been doing rescue work among unfortunate women and girls for ten years. She was formerly a paid missionary, but for several years she has been working without pay. She did much to secure the second trial and acquittal of Marie Barron.

MAJOR SPAHN CAME TO CLASS REUNION.
Jacob A. Spahn was a very prominent lawyer of Buffalo. He was a graduate of the University of Rochester, and a member of the Theta Delta Chi Greek letter college fraternity. He was in New York City as a delegate to the annual convention of the society when he met his death.

In 1877 he became prominent in State National affairs as an engineer and won the rank of major, in which term he was most widely known.

Banker Currey Says Warning Was Given.
Mr. J. P. Currey, President of the Metropolitan Savings Bank, had a room on the second floor of the hotel and escaped without injury. He expressed himself as astonished that the fire resulted fatally to any of the guests, as ample warning, he says, was given.

Mr. Currey was awakened at 1:30 o'clock by the noise of the engines, and he immediately went to the hotel. He was dressed and went out in the corridor. Mr. Reid and the head porter, Thomas Martin, were going through the halls arousing guests and telling them to be in readiness to leave the hotel. Mr. Currey said that he saw the fire spread to the hotel. All were assured, however, that there was no danger.

The fire was about thirty feet from Mr. Currey's room when he was awakened. He was in his room looking at the fire when he was told that the hotel was in danger. He immediately went to the street, and out to the street, I supposed that everything was safe, as there appeared to be no danger to the guests who were leaving in an orderly manner.

"I noticed the fire as I went out, and saw the flames coming out of the cupola of the elevator shaft. It was burning in the shaft above the second floor, and I saw the fire spread to the top of the shaft."

NO INCENDIARISM, SAYS INSPECTOR.
Police Inspector Thompson declares that the theory of incendiarism in connection with the fire in the Park Avenue Hotel is ridiculous.

"It was on the scene all the time," says the Inspector, "and there is no doubt that the Park Avenue was set on fire by sparks from the armory. Fire balls as large as my head were floating through the air as thick as snowflakes. They went as far as Broadway."

"But for the weather New York would have had the worst conflagration known in years. The smoke and steam on the tops of the buildings protected them and the rain extinguished the flying firebrands."

"I believe that the failure of the hotel management to arouse the guests should be investigated. The guests were well known and was perfectly apparent, and yet the guests were not aroused, but were permitted to remain in their rooms until the building was on fire and it was too late to save them."

BOOKKEEPER BESAND SOUNDED THE ALARM.
A. F. Besand, head bookkeeper at the Park Avenue Hotel, said:

"As soon as the fire had broken out in the armory, at the first intimation of any danger, I rushed myself to the various floors, sending out in different directions at the same time all the bell-boys. I rushed to the sixth floor, and as I had no key, I opened all the doors I could and aroused the guests. I had the gong sounded and also told the bell-boys to yell as loud as they could that the hotel was on fire."

MANY INQUIRIES FOR THE MISSING.
Telegrams are pouring into the telephone office at the hotel from all parts of the country, asking questions about the safety of guests. One of these inquiries was for Mrs. Emily Louise Bragg, of Cleveland, O., who had a room on the fifth floor. It came from her father in Washington. She is missing.

INCIDENTS OF THE FIRE.
Rescued Two Brothers.
Patrolman Kesselmark, a little man, carried out from the hotel Broker Franklin Everhart, who weighs 200 pounds, and later Broker Franklin L. Bennett. Both had been overcome by smoke.

Saved a Woman.
Charles L. Woodbury, of Portland, Maine, ran through the hotel hall. A large woman who was hysterical grabbed him. He stopped to help her out and both were overcome by smoke. Woodbury was badly burned before he was rescued.

Minister's Wife Missing.
Rev. William S. Boardman, taken to Bellevue with burns on hand and face, carries over the disappearance of his wife. She was with him at the fire, but has not since been seen.

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